

NOTE ON *MUREX MANCINELLA*, LINN.

By E. A. SMITH, I.S.O.

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THE Linnean collection, preserved in Burlington House, London, contains three shells labelled *Murex mancinella*. They were mounted upon wooden tablets by Mr. Hanley when he wrote his work *Ipsa Linnæi Conchylia*, and two of them are marked in Linné's handwriting with the number 544 of the twelfth edition of the *Systema Naturæ*.

One of the three specimens is the *Purpura mancinella* of Lamarek¹ and most other authors, and the other two are *Drupa cornus*, Bolten, of which *Purpura elata* of Blainville, and *Ricinula spectrum*, Reeve, are synonyms.

The *Purpura mancinella* of authors does not agree with Linné's description in the tenth edition of the *Systema*, for the columella is not "transversim striata", and nothing, moreover, is said as regards colour. The "apertura edentula" is fairly descriptive, for the red thread-like lines within the mouth could hardly be termed teeth, yet one would expect such a conspicuous feature to have been referred to if Linné had the shell before him *at the time*.

The *Murex mancinella* of the Museum Ulricæ published six years after the tenth edition of the *Systema* is certainly, in part, the *mancinella* auctorum, for this is shown by the "spinæ brevissimæ purpurascentes", which is a characteristic feature of that species. The "fauce lutea, transversim striata" also seems to indicate this species.

The description in the twelfth edition of the *Systema*, according to Hanley,² would apply to "an immature example of *Ricinula spectrum*", and he states that there are two adult examples of it in the Linnean cabinet, but he does not mention the existence of the specimen of *mancinella*, Lamk., which is there also. The quoted reversed figures in Rumphius,³ however, in my opinion, hardly represents *Ricinula spectrum*, and cannot with certainty be referred to any species.⁴ The figure in Argenville,⁵ quoted by Linné in this edition of his work, is probably an enlarged but poor illustration of Lamarek's *Ricinula morus*.

From the above notes it will be seen that there is a curious complication, and it becomes a question whether either of the two shells, *mancinella* auctorum or *cornus*, Bolten (= *elata*, Blainville, and *spectrum*, Reeve), should be retained as the Linnean species. The *Murex mancinella* of the tenth and twelfth editions of the *Systema* and the Museum Ulricæ is certainly made up of at least three species, namely, *mancinella*, auct., *cornus*, Bolten, probably, and *morus*, Lamk.

¹ Kiener, Coq. Viv., pl. xvi, fig. 46.

² *Ipsa Linn. Conch.*, p. 295.

³ *Amboin. Rariteitkamer*, 1705, pl. xxiv, fig. 5.

⁴ It is not unlike *Thais echinata* (Blainv.).

⁵ *Hist. Nat. Lithol. Conch.*, 1742, pl. xx, fig. H.

The shell of the tenth edition of the *Systema*, as Hanley observes, may be an immature specimen of *Ricinula spectrum*, but there is no proof that it is, for the quoted figure of Rumphius hardly represents it, and there is no such shell in the Linnean cabinet. On the other hand, neither the description nor the quoted figure fits the *mancinella*, auct.

Considering the confusion surrounding Linné's *Murex mancinella* I am inclined to disregard it and to apply names to the shells which have been so designated, about which there is no doubt. Mr. C. Hedley has already come to the same conclusion.¹

THAIS GEMMULATA (Lamarck). = *acebala* ¹⁷ ₁₈

1764. *Murex mancinella*, Linn. partim, Mus. Ulricæ, p. 636.
 1780. *Murex mancinella*, Born partim, Mus. Vindob., p. 304, pl. ix, figs. 19–20.
 1798. *Drupa mancinella*, Bolten partim, Mus. Bolten, p. 56.
 1816. *Purpura gemmulata*, Lamarck, Tableau Encycl. Méthod. Vers, pl. 397, figs. 3a–b; liste des planches, p. 2.
 1822. *Purpura mancinella*, Lamarck, Anim. s. Vert., vol. vii, p. 239, excluding part of synonymy.
 1846. *Purpura mancinella*, Reeve (Linn. partim), Conch. Icon., vol. iii, fig. 2.
 1908. *Thais gemmulata* (Lamarck), Hedley, Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W., vol. xxxiii, p. 457.

Hab.—Aden (Rev. A. W. Baynham, Major Yerbury in Brit. Mus.); Seychelles I. (Sir A. Gordon in B.M.); Raine's Island, North Australia (J. B. Jukes in B.M.); North Borneo (J. Whitehead in B.M.); Seychelles, Amirantes, Madagascar, Mauritius (Martens); Loo Choo I. (Pilsbry); Bay of Muscat, Singapore, and Fiji I. (Tryon) are probably correct; Ceylon (Blainville); Darnley I., Torres Straits, Nickol Bay, North-West Australia, and Port Darwin, North Australia (Brazier).²

Thais agrota (Reeve), united with this species by Tryon (Man. Conch., vol. ii, p. 164), is a very distinct form which occurs at Sharks Bay, Western Australia.

DRUPA CORNUS, Bolten.

1758. *Murex mancinella*, Linn.?? Syst. Nat., 10th ed., p. 751.
 1798. *Drupa cornus*, Bolten, Mus. Bolten, p. 56.
 1832. *Purpura elata*, Blainville, Nouv. Ann. Mus., vol. i, p. 207, pl. xi, fig. 1.
 1839. *Purpura martiniana*, Anton, Verzeich. Conch., p. 88.
 1846. *Purpura elata*, Reeve, Conch. Icon., vol. iii, fig. 27, dwarf form.
 1846. *Ricinula spectrum*, Reeve, Conch. Icon., vol. iii, fig. 19.
 1899. *Sistrum elatum*, Blainville; Melvill & Standen, Journ. Linn. Soc., vol. xxvii, p. 163.

Hab.—Aden (Capt. Shopland in Brit. Mus.); Australia (Blainville and Reeve); North Queensland (Melvill & Standen); Island of

¹ Trans. Linn. Soc. N.S.W., vol. xxxiii, p. 457, 1908.

² Journ. Conch., vol. ii, p. 187.

Capul, Philippines (Reeve, for *spectrum*); Seychelles, Amirantes, Mauritius, Bourbon (Martens).

The 'lumping' of this and several other species by Tryon with *Drupa ochrostoma* (Blainville) is too ridiculous for serious consideration.

Drupa cornus was founded by Bolten upon a figure in Martini's Conchylien Cabinet (vol. iii, fig. 971), which could not be referred to the present species with any certainty had it not been accompanied by the very good description given on p. 279. This is so complete in every detail that we are left in no uncertainty as to the species in question.
